

For Immediate Release: March 13, 2001

Contact:

Lee Herzberger (Muscatatuck/Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge Complex)

(812) 522-4352 Lee_Herzberger@fws.gov

Steve Miller (Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge) (812) 273-0783

Stephen_A_Miller@fws.gov

**Finding of No Significant Impact on
Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge's
Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge's Fire Management Plan (Plan) and Environmental Assessment (Assessment) and has prepared a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Assessment and Plan address impacts to the public, threatened and endangered species, and Refuge habitats and measures to be taken to avoid or minimize negative impacts. All issues brought up through public comment and internal review were addressed. The FONSI outlines the reasons for adopting the Plan and Assessment and all mitigating factors that were incorporated in these documents.

A copy of the FONSI is available at <http://midwest.fws.gov/nepa/> and at the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge Office. Copies of the approved Plan and Assessment, incorporating changes that occurred to both documents during the public review process, will be available when the final printing is complete (in 3-4 weeks). Once printing is complete, all persons or organizations that requested copies of the draft Plan or Assessment will receive copies of the FONSI and final Plan and Assessment. Additional copies will be available at the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge office.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 530 national

wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

For further information about the programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region, please visit our home page at: <http://midwest.fws.gov> For information specific to Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge, please visit: <http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/bigoaks>

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